



## Participating Organizations:

Metropolitan Office of The Mayor  
Mayor's Office of Emergency Management  
Metro Police Department  
Metro Fire Department  
Metro Public Works  
Metro Department of Law  
Metro Codes  
Metro Water Services  
Metro Transit Authority  
Davidson County Sheriff's Department  
Tennessee Department of Transportation  
Tennessee Highway Patrol



Mayor Bill Purcell

In order to protect the safety of the citizens, workers, and tourist within the Downtown Central Business District of Nashville, TN an Evacuation Plan has been devised under the direction of Mayor Bill Purcell.

With the corporation and participation of numerous Government agencies and outside entities this plan will help to insure the orderly evacuation of the downtown area in the event of man-made or natural disaster, act of terrorism, or other event which may threaten the public safety. These efforts will be coordinated with the Federal and State Offices of Homeland Security.

This brochure is a quick reference guide for citizens and visitors within the Central Business District.



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## *A Guide to:* **Downtown Evacuation**



**Metro- Nashville  
&  
Davidson County**



## The Plan:

Metro Government, in conjunction with state and private organizations, is responsible for ensuring the safe evacuation of citizens and visitors who live and work in downtown Nashville.

In the event a major emergency occurred inside the **Central Business District** requiring an evacuation, the emergency response departments of Metro Government would be ultimately responsible for the safety of all those within the defined area during the evacuation order.

The purpose of an evacuation plan is to provide a safe and orderly process for the emergency evacuation in a coordinated manner by the various local and state agencies that would be responsible for such activity. The area covered for this plan is the population within the Central Business District in downtown Nashville. This area is defined as being within the Interstate 265 'loop' that connects interstates 55, 24 and 40.



The Mayor authorizes plan implementation under the direction of the Police Chief. These actions will also authorize emergency notification of downtown building tenants and visitors by the following.

- **Emergency Alert System (instant radio and television alert messaging to the public)**
- **Rapid, Automated Telephone Notifier ("Reverse 911")**
- **ITS Control Centers of TDOT**
- **Law Enforcement and building security officers**



## The Procedures:

It must be emphasized that evacuation is an extreme measure, involving inherent risks and major disruption of lives and businesses. Evacuation is only undertaken after careful evaluation of current circumstances (if possible) and a determination that a clear and present need exists that involves conditions which outweigh the hazards involved. Evacuation is only to be done as a last resort. Alternatives such as *shelter-in-place* or *precautionary relocation* of citizens to a nearby shelter area is considered as an alternative.

The initial situation will be determined based upon the most current information available. Considerations such as time of day, traffic estimates, attendance of ongoing public events, expected population in the area, and severe weather are among variables that need to be applied. In the event it is deemed necessary to evacuate the Central Business District (CBD), traffic arteries leading away from the incident area in a circular manner will be utilized as the method of evacuation. No vehicles will be allowed into the Central Business District.



Emergency transport of evacuees should be redirected to a pre-designated Shelter area if possible, where assistance and crisis information will be made available and coordinated by the Office of Emergency Management, in conjunction with other agencies and/or volunteer organizations such as the American Red Cross.



## Where do you go?

A Traffic Operations Group (TOG) may be established to assist with traffic and evacuation coordination when deemed necessary. This group will be staffed with representatives from various agencies including Police Department, Public Works, TDOT, Davidson County Sheriff's Office, and THP.

When an evacuation is ordered please pay close attention to instructions so that everyone can get out of the area safely.

## Evacuation Levels:

**Four Levels** : of evacuation are established.

These levels may be increased incrementally according to the emerging situation:

**Level I** - The situation is isolated and can be readily contained to a controllable area, such as a single building, block, or other small area. Occupants need to be temporarily relocated and there is no risk of escalation and no indication that the event will require mobilization of more than normal resources.

**Level II** - The situation involves an area such as several blocks of the district, or large public gathering. There may be a risk of escalation of the event, such as a Hazmat Contamination, or the potential that the situation will require more than normal resources.

**Level III** - This is a situation of great magnitude that may or will involve evacuation of all or a major part of the CBD to outlying areas of the city.

**Level IV** - This is a regional catastrophic event involving evacuation of the entire city, including the outlying areas and jurisdictions. An event of this magnitude, such as a Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD) release, should be coordinated with State and Federal Authorities.